



Blessed Are All Those Who Take Refuge in Him, Lisa Schulist

God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises

Hymns and Prayers for Devotional Use

Bert Polman was a teacher, scholar, mentor, and friend whose work not only contributed to the understanding of hymns, liturgies, and prayers, but to their use in public worship and private devotion. One of his co-edited volumes is sub-titled “Hymn Texts for Devotional Use.” To express gratitude to God for the gifts we received through Bert, we offer this collection of some of his litanies and prayers, hymns and psalm versifications for the ongoing use of his family, colleagues, students, and friends.

Bert had a particular concern for the faithful use of the biblical Psalms in public worship, and frequently took up the challenge of versifying many lesser-known Psalms for inclusion in volumes of congregational song. These texts reveal Bert’s passionate commitment to the Psalms and a large-scale view of God’s peaceable kingdom which comes through Jesus Christ.

The title of this collection, “God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises” comes from Bert’s text for the 150th anniversary of the Christian Reformed Church in 2007. It reflects a profoundly hopeful vision of the work of the triune God through the church for the flourishing of the world God so loves.

We give thanks to God for the way that this vision was articulated so compellingly through the writings—and the life—of our wise colleague, mentor, and friend.

—John D. Witvliet

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship
Calvin College
Grand Rapids, Michigan
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Litany for Commencement

Liturgist: Praise the Lord in the heavens.
Praise the Lord on the earth.
Praise the Lord under the earth.

People: **Thanks be to God for the marvels of creation.**

Liturgist: Praise the Lord for the words that speak re-creation.
Praise the Lord for the lessons of history.
Praise the Lord for the stories of culture.

People: **Thanks be to God for the Word made flesh.**

Liturgist: Praise the Lord for inspiring poetic imagination.
Praise the Lord for the mysteries of scientific analysis.
Praise the Lord for bodies and minds made holy.

People: **Thanks be to God for the breath of the Spirit.**

Liturgist: Exalt the Triune God who encourages us to mix reading with repentance, fuse knowledge with devotion, stir learning with charity, challenge intelligence with humility, and enliven research with wonder.

People: **Thanks be to God for academic pursuits that lead to wisdom.**

Liturgist: Exalt the Triune God who requires of us to feed the hungry and offer drink to the thirsty, build shelter for the homeless and clothe the naked, comfort the weary and calm those who are anxious, and be peace-makers throughout the world.

People: **Thanks be to God for daily lives that testify to grace.**

Liturgist: Exalt the Triune God who calls us to be diligent stewards of the creation, zealous explorers of the cosmos, fervent messengers of eternal hope, faithful in marriage, family, and friendship and humble servants in public life.

***People:* Thanks be to God for the power of the Gospel.**

Liturgist: Labor for the Lord in the market place.
Labor for the Lord in the media.
Labor for the Lord in chambers of government.
Let all our agencies and institutions praise the Lord!

***People:* Thanks be to God for the blessing of righteousness.**

Liturgist: Serve the Lord in and beyond the classroom.
Serve the Lord in and outside the church.
Serve the Lord in bedroom and soup kitchen.
Let all of our living praise the Lord!

***People:* Thanks be to God for the joy of faithfulness.**

Liturgist: Worship the Lord as members of the Calvin community.
Worship the Lord in private and public spaces.
Worship the Lord in ethics of work and play.
Let all who breathe honor the living Lord!

***People:* Thanks be to God forever and ever. Amen!**

Written by Bert Polman for Calvin College Commencement, 2013

God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises

1 God, we sing your glorious praises
as we tell your awesome deeds;
you have fashioned all creation,
and you meet each creature's needs.
We rejoice in how your people
tasted your great faithfulness;
graced through every generation,
we your mighty acts profess.

2 We remember, God, your covenant,
which extends from heaven to earth;
how Christ's death and resurrection
conquers sin, renews our birth.
Thank you for this gospel message,
which inspires your church to preach
grace to every generation
in our deeds and in our speech.

3 Fueled by power from your Spirit,
we commit ourselves anew
to be faithful to your gospel
in the daily work we do.
We will shout your glorious praises,
telling all who have not heard;
grace for every generation
is embodied in your Word.

4 Lord, we offer you our worship
as we celebrate your grace
which you shower on your people
gathered here and everywhere.
Blessed by water, Word, and table,
we, your church, now pledge to share
grace through every generation
in our witness, work, and prayer.

Words: Bert Polman © 2006 Faith Alive Christian Resources

As we remember the work of the Spirit of God in fashioning the creation,

we will sing and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

As we benefit from how the Spirit of God sustains the life of all creatures,

we will shout and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

As we need the in-dwelling of the Spirit of God to renew our spirits,

we will pray and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

As we yearn for the gifts of the Spirit of God in our lives and communities,

we will cry out and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

As we are lifted around this table to the presence of Jesus by the Spirit of God,

we will live in faith and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

As we want to be united as a holy, priestly people by the Spirit of God,

we will serve others and obey the Spirit of the Lord.

As we desire the fire and anointing of the Spirit of God,

we will humble ourselves and obey the Spirit of the Lord. Amen.

Inspired by the African-American spiritual "I'm Gonna Sing when the Spirit Says Sing"



Praise I, C. Malcolm Powers

versification of Psalm 37

1 When evil people sin
and wrong suppresses right,
remember, they will fade away
and wither overnight.
Commit your way to God;
trust him to bless the right.
He gives you all your heart's desire
when he is your delight.

2 Be still before the LORD,
wait patiently for him,
and do not fret when wickedness
succeeds to make life grim.
Refrain from angry ways
and worries that destroy.
All those who look to God their LORD
his kingdom shall enjoy.

3 The wicked fight the poor,
but God will scorn their stealth.
The little that the righteous hold
is better than sin's wealth.
The LORD upholds his own;
their blessings will increase.
But all the wicked come to naught
their power will surely cease.

4 The godless borrow much
and then do not pay back.
The righteous give and give again
their children have no lack.
My steps are from the LORD,
who helps my feet to stand.
I stumble but I do not fall:
God holds me with his hand.

5 Shun evil and do good;
then you will live in peace.
The LORD protects his suffering saints,
but wicked lives will cease.
The righteous speak the truth,
their tongues with wisdom flow;
the law of God is in their heart.
He saves them from the foe.

6 The LORD will bless your land
if you but keep his way.
Though wicked people grow like trees,
they soon will pass away.
Salvation comes from God
who saves us from the wrong,
and those who seek his shelter find
a refuge safe and strong.

Words: Psalm 37; vers. Bert Polman, 1985; based on a text by Christopher Idle, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

versification of Psalm 40

1 I waited patiently for God;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He pulled me from destruction's pit
and set my feet on solid ground.
He put a new song in my mouth.
How blest are those who trust the LORD.
My God, your deeds and plans are great;
they number more than I can count.

2 You do not want a sacrifice;
instead, you claim my life, my all.
I come to you obediently;
to do your will is my delight.
Before your people I proclaim
the gospel of your righteousness.
I do not hide your love and truth,
but speak of your great faithfulness.

3 Do not withhold your mercy, LORD;
protect me with your love and truth.
For troubles now surround my life,
my sins have overtaken me.
They overwhelm my failing heart;
I cannot see, my way is dark.
Be pleased, O LORD, to rescue me;
come quickly and restore my life.

4 May all who seek to take my life
be put to shame and suffer scorn.
But all who seek you will rejoice
and say, "The LORD be magnified!"
Yet I am poor and needy, LORD;
please turn to me and hear my cry.
You are my help, my Savior God!
Do not delay, remember me.

Words: Psalm 40; vers. Bert Polman, 1980, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources



Psalm 6, C. Malcolm Powers

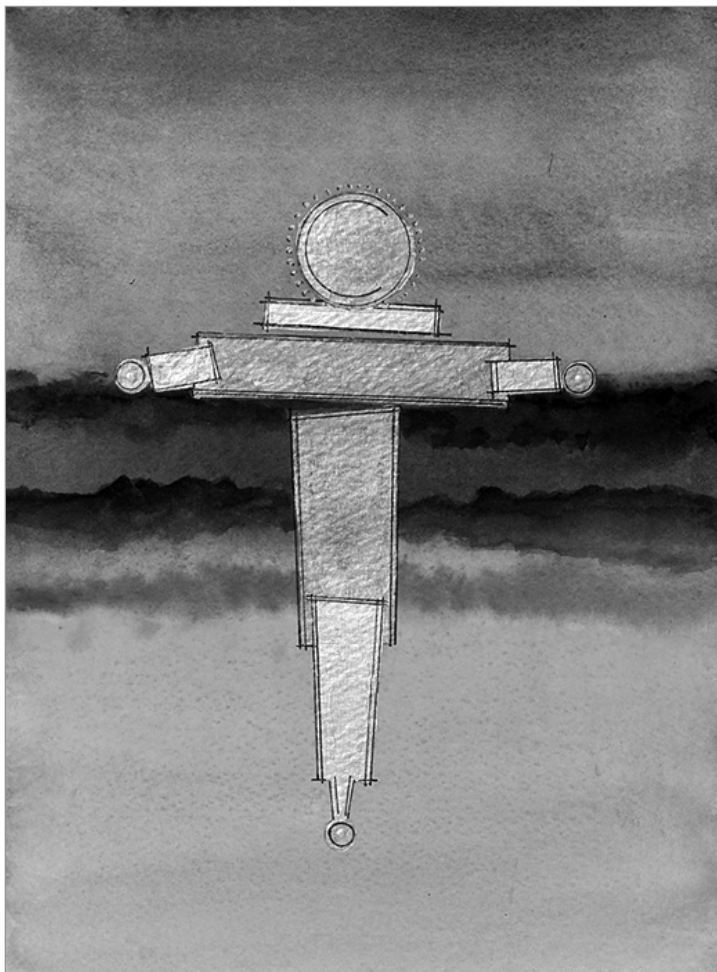
versification of Psalm 41

1 How blest are those who thoughtfully
the poor and weak befriend.
The LORD delivers them from harm;
his blessings have no end.
The LORD will not surrender them
when enemies oppress;
in sickness he sustains their life
and heals those in distress.

2 I said, "Have mercy, heal me, LORD,
and all my sin forgive."
My enemies have said in scorn,
"We hope you will not live!"
My friend, whom I have trusted much,
who often shared my bread,
has turned against me like my foes:
they all would see me dead.

3 O LORD, be merciful to me;
let justice now prevail.
I know that you are pleased with me,
for all my foes do fail.
In my integrity, O LORD,
you hold me in your hand
to live with you forevermore.
O praise the LORD! Amen!

Words: Psalm 41; vers. Bert Polman, 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources



Soul Reflection, James Fissel

versification of Psalm 44

1 O God, we have heard what our parents have told,
what wonders you did in the great days of old.
The nations were crushed and expelled by your hand;
you gave to your people the victory, the land.
O LORD, you alone are my God and my King!
Command, and your name shall the sure victory bring.
I trust not in weapons, for you make us strong;
we push back our foes and then praise you in song.

2 But you cast us off and brought shame to our boasts;
no more into battle you go with our hosts.
You gave us like sheep to be slaughtered and slain;
the sale of your people has brought you no gain.
You make all our neighbors reproach us in pride,
and cause those around us to scoff and deride.
The people revile us and joke at our name;
our faces are covered, disgraced with the shame.

3 This happened though we have been faithful to you;
our feet have not strayed from the paths that are true.
But you broke our lives, LORD; our faith seems in vain.
All covered with darkness, to you we complain.
If we had forgotten God's name in our woe
or worshiped false idols, then would he not know?
No secrets from God in our hearts can remain;
yet now we are counted as sheep to be slain.

4 O God, we have heard what our parents have told,
what wonders you did in the great days of old.
The nations were crushed and expelled by your hand;
you gave to your people the victory, the land.
Awake and arise, Lord, for why do you sleep?
No longer ignore us, but save those who weep.
Our lives are brought low; we lie crushed in the dust.
Arise and redeem us; your mercy we trust.

Words: Psalm 44; vers. Bert Polman, 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Lord, we cry to you to heal our wounds.
We call to you in distress and plead for your salvation.
We have sinned against your law and failed to do your will;
we confess that we've disobeyed your holy Word.
Purge our lives of selfishness and our hearts of bitterness.
Lead us back to righteousness; save us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Based on a text of Ulrich Zwingli (1529) from "Lord, We Cry to You for Help" (*Psalter Hymnal* 261),
The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd edition, 2.2.36

versification of Psalm 45

1 I praise the king with all my verses;
with blessings on my tongue I sing.
Your grace and beauty show God's favor;
God's richest gifts are for our king.
Gird on your sword, ride forth with might;
defend the cause of truth and right.

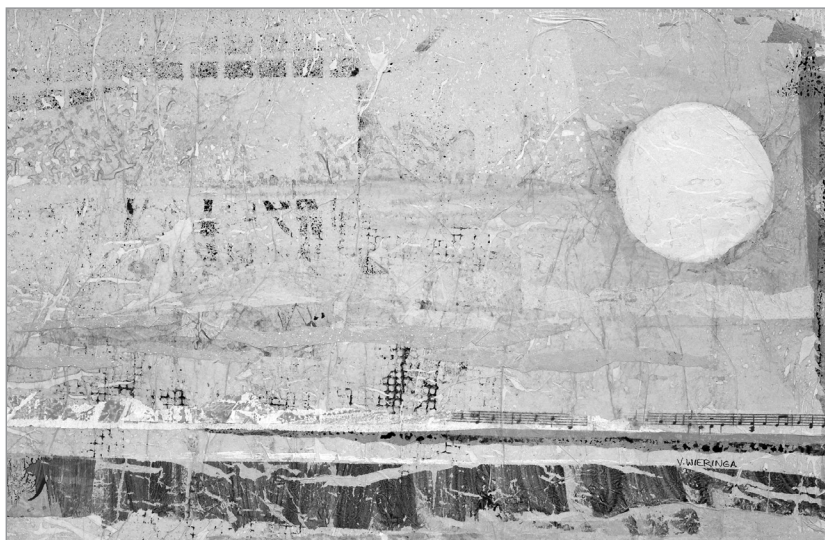
2 Your enemies are pierced by arrows;
the nations fall beneath your feet.
Your holy throne will last forever;
you love the right and hate deceit.
Anointed with great joyfulness,
you are the one our God will bless.

3 Your royal robes breath myrrh and aloes;
with fragrant spices you are clad.
Your ivory palaces all echo
with music that will make you glad.
Daughters of foreign kings behold
the royal bride adorned with gold.

4 Listen, O daughter, and consider:
forget your people and your house.
The king, enthralled by all your beauty,
will be your lord, and you his spouse.
Before you all the rich will stand,
expecting favors from your hand.

5 The bride, in gold-embroidered garment,
is brought inside to greet the king.
Her lovely ladies, virgin escort,
in festive celebration sing.
Your children will receive acclaim,
the nations ever praise your name.

Words: Psalm 45; vers. Marie J. Post, 1985, and Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources



Hallalujah Morning, Virginia Wieringa

versification of Psalm 58

1 O mighty rulers, can you claim
that you speak righteousness?
Do you defend the poor and weak
in truth and uprightness?
No, in your heart you plot and scheme;
injustice marks your life;
you deal out violence on earth
and favor human strife.

2 The wicked from their birth tell lies,
they sin, they go astray;
they have the venom of a snake,
they do not heed God's way.
O LORD, destroy these enemies
and scatter all their might;
let them be like a stillborn child
that never sees the light.

3 The crying victims will rejoice
when vengeance is complete;
their triumph is God's sovereign power,
which saves them from defeat.
Then all will say, "The righteous still
receive a sure reward,
for we can see there is a God
who judges all as LORD."

Words: Psalm 58; vers. Bert Polman, 1983, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

versification of Psalm 70

1 Come quickly, LORD, to rescue me,
and hasten to my help, I pray.
May all who seek to take my life
be put to shame without delay.

2 May all who seek your name rejoice,
your praise in gratitude record.
May those who love your saving power
say evermore, "Exalt the LORD!"

3 Yet I am poor and needy, LORD;
be quick to hear my urgent plea.
You are my help, my Savior God!
Do not delay; remember me.

Words: Bert Polman, 1983, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Come now, long-expected Jesus,
you were born to set your people free.
You release us from our fears and sins
and help us find our rest in you.
Come now, long-expected Jesus,
you deliver us from the ways of wickedness.
You are the desire of every nation
and direct us into the ways of your kingdom.
Come now, long-expected Jesus,
come again to rule in our hearts. Amen.

Based on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" by Charles Wesley (1744) (*Psalter Hymnal* 329)

versification of Psalm 80

1 Hear us, O Shepherd of your chosen race;
you led us like a flock within your care.
From out the cherubim reveal your face;
before your people let your might appear.
Restore us, LORD, your saving power release;
make your face shine on us and give us peace.

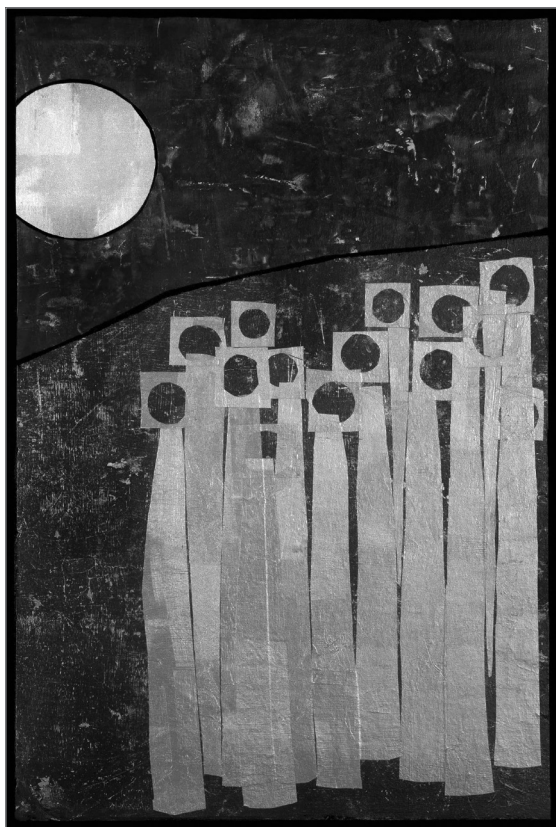
2 How long, O LORD, will you disdain our prayer?
For you have fed us with the bread of tears.
Your holy anger brings us to despair;
the nations mock us with their scornful jeers.
Restore us, LORD, your saving power release;
make your face shine on us and give us peace.

3 You brought a vine from Egypt with your hand;
you drove the nations out to give it room.
It took deep root and spread throughout the land;
the hills were covered with its shade and bloom.
Under its branches mighty cedars hide;
it sent out shoots to sea and riverside.

4 Why have you broken down the vineyard wall
so that its grapes are eaten off the vine?
Boars from the forest root around it all;
its fruit is ravaged by the hungry swine.
Return to us, O LORD, with power divine;
look down from heaven on your chosen vine.

5 This vine, once planted with your own right hand,
now burns with fire; your people cry and moan.
Let your hand rest on those you cause to stand;
then we will call on your great name alone.
Restore us, LORD, your saving power release;
make your face shine on us and give us peace.

Words: Psalm 80; vers. Bert Polman, 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources



A Gathering of Spirits, Jan Richardson

versification of Psalm 86

1 LORD, my petition heed,
now help me in my need,
or else I die.
I am your servant, LORD;
my trust is in your word.
Mercy to me accord;
to you I cry.

2 Comfort your servant now,
while at your throne I bow
and call to you.
Your pardoning grace is free;
sinners who raise their plea
your love and mercy see;
they are made new.

3 LORD, hear me when I pray;
in every troubled day
I seek your face.
O Lord, you far outshine
the gods of our design;
most bright your glories shine,
O God of grace.

4 By nations you have made,
your praise will be displayed
through earth abroad.
Your name be glorified,
your greatness magnified;
matchless your works abide,
for you are God!

5 Lead me to do your will,
in me your truth instill,
teach me your word.
I will give thanks to you,
your praise I will pursue;
all glory be to you,
O Lord my God!

6 Great is your love to me;
from death you set me free
when foes alarm.
Your grace I surely know,
your anger, Lord, is slow;
your loving-kindness show,
save me from harm.

7 Show me your mercy true,
your servant's strength renew,
salvation send.
A sign of favor show,
your comfort, LORD, bestow;
let those who hate me know
you are my friend.

versification of Psalm 133

1 Behold, how good, how pleasant is the union
when brothers, sisters live in sweet communion
and serve the LORD in cheerfulness.
It is like precious oil on Aaron's head,
which on his beard and priestly robe would spread,
anointing him to holiness.

2 It is as if refreshing dew from Hermon
were falling like a rain upon Mount Zion,
when God his benediction sends.
The LORD his bounteous blessings will release
on those who live in unity and peace;
God gives them life that never ends.

Words: Psalm 133; vers. Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let each of us, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
As we depart, we give you thanks
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
flourish in our hearts and lives,
that we may bring glory to you
and be found faithful to your truth. In Christ, Amen.

Based on "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" by John Fawcett (1773) (*Psalter Hymnal* 320-321),
The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd edition, 9.1.48

Covenant Hymn

1 Sing praise to God who breathed creation
and holds the universe in space;
who spoke the planets into orbit
and gave the day and night its place.
Sing praise to God who made all creatures
that swim in seas and fly the air;
who populates the land with wildlife
and gave the earth to human care,
and gave the earth to human care.

2 Sing praise to God who made a covenant
with Noah in the rainbow sign;
who chose to make his people Israel
from Abraham and Sarah's line.
Sing praise to God who spoke to Moses
and wrote his law on mountain stone;
who gave his people milk and honey,
uniting them through David's throne,
uniting them through David's throne.

3 Sing praise to God who works redemption
in Jesus Christ, the word made flesh;
who made a new eternal covenant
written on hearts with grace afresh.
Sing praise to God whose Holy Spirit
breathed into every living thing,
and still renews the whole creation
to join us as God's praise we sing,
to join us as God's praise we sing.

Words: Bert Polman © 2010

In the Beginning Was the Word Eternal

1 In the beginning was the Word eternal;
the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
Through him all things exist that were created;
in him was life, the light of humankind.

2 The light is shining in a world of darkness,
but darkness has not overcome the light.
The light of God, true source of all creation,
came to his own, but they received him not.

3 Yet those who welcome him, his name believing,
receive the rights of children of the Lord;
those who receive him trust in him as children
not born of human will, but born of God.

4 Becoming flesh, the Word has dwelt among us;
we saw his glory, full of grace and truth.
Law came through Moses, grace and truth through Jesus;
the Son of God has made the Father known.

Words: John 1:1-5, 9-14, 17-18; vers. Bert Polman, 1985, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Blessed are you, Lord God Almighty, King of the universe.
In the beginning your Spirit breathed life into the creation,
and you continue to renew the face of the earth.
Your Spirit breathed life into the Scriptures,
and we pray you will continue to speak your Word to us.
Your Spirit breathes peace and comfort to the whole world,
and we pray you will enact that among us today.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd edition, 1.1.6

Song of Zechariah

1 Praised be the God of Israel,
who has redeemed his people;
through David's house God will excel
and triumph over evil.
As told by prophets long ago,
he frees us from the hateful foe,
shows mercy to our parents.
God's covenant oath will persevere,
that we may serve him without fear
each day in true obedience.

2 My child, you will prepare God's way
as prophet of the Most High,
announce to people that the day
of saving knowledge is nigh.
In tender mercy God begins
to save his people from their sins,
from death and desolation.
The light will make the darkness cease
and guide our feet in ways of peace;
the Lord brings us salvation.

Words: Luke 1:68-79; vers. Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

O Lord Christ,
how deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that you, the Son of God,
should be manifest in our human form for our redemption.

How deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that wise sages and simple men and women attend you,
and became your messengers and witnesses.

How deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that you, the Son of God,
manifested yourself in baptism to fulfill all righteousness.

How deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that the Devil failed to tempt you away from your task,
and you manifested your obedience to your Father.

How deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that you, the Son of God,
should manifest the way of your kingdom in your parables.

How deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that the sick, lame, and blind were healed by you,
manifesting your power even over death.

How deep, how broad, how high is your love,
that you, as Son of God,
be manifest to Moses, Elijah, and your disciples.

O Lord Christ,
may your love – so deep, so broad, so high –
be with us forever. Amen.

Inspired by the 15th c. Latin hymn “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” (*Psalter Hymnal* 364)

Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates

1 Lift up your heads, O gates;
the King of glory waits.
Lift high, O ancient doors, obey;
prepare the royal way.

Refrain: Hosanna, hosanna!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 Who is this glorious King
whose praise the nations sing?
The LORD, the Mighty, Holy One,
whose strength the victory won. *Refrain*

3 Lift up your heads, O gates;
the King of glory waits.
Lift high, O ancient doors, obey;
prepare the royal way. *Refrain*

4 Who is this glorious King
whose praise the nations sing?
The LORD Almighty is his name;
his glorious might proclaim: *Refrain*

Words: Psalm 24:7-10; vers. Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

O Lord Christ, as once you entered Jerusalem,
enter our hearts this day afresh.
As you once set your face towards death on a cross,
help us this day to walk with you to victory.
As the children once cried “hosanna” to bless you,
enable us to confess you openly as Lord and Savior.
Grant us your presence by the power of your Spirit,
that our worship and our lives truly honor you. Amen.

The Worship Sourcebook, 2nd edition, K.1.4.5

Christ, You Are the Fullness

1 Christ, you are the fullness of God, firstborn of everything.
For by you all things were made; you hold them up.
You are the head of the church, which is your body.
Firstborn from the dead, you in all things are supreme!

2 Since we have been raised with you, Lord,
help keep our hearts and minds
pure and set on things that build your rule o'er all the earth.
All our life is now hidden with you in God.
When you come again, we will share your glory.

3 Help us live in peace as true members of your body.
Let your word dwell richly in us as we teach and sing.
Thanks and praise be to God through you, Lord Jesus.
In whate'er we do let your name receive the praise!

Words: Colossians 1:15-18; 3:1-4, 15-17; vers. Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Almighty Lord of the church, we pray to you
from rural meeting houses and downtown cathedrals,
from ranch homes and thatched-roof huts,
from factories, hospitals, and classrooms:

Make your people one!

Almighty Lord of the church, we pray to you
with saints of old and newborn disciples,
with your church around the world,
with men, women, and children:

Make your people one!

Almighty Lord of the church, we pray to you:
fulfill in us the prayer of Jesus to make your people one. Amen.

If I Speak a Foreign Tongue

1 If I speak a foreign tongue,
if I sing the angels' song,
I am still a noisy gong
if I have not love.

2 If all learning I approve
and my faith can mountains move,
all these gifts still nothing prove
if I have not love.

3 If I give away all gain,
suffer martyrdom in pain,
nothing yet do I attain
if I have not love.

4 Love is patient, love is kind;
love rejects an evil mind.
Jealousy is left behind
if I have this love.

5 Love is endless in its reign,
though all tongues and knowledge wane.
Faith and hope and love remain;
greatest still is love.

Words: 1 Corinthians 13; vers. Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Christian, Do You Struggle

1 Christian, do you struggle on the battleground,
'gainst the powers of darkness closing in around?
Christian, rise, take armor, soldier of the cross;
for the sake of Jesus count your gain but loss.

2 Christian, do you battle Satan's power within,
all his striving, luring, tempting you to sin?
Christian, do not tremble, do not be downcast;
arm yourself for battle, watch and pray and fast.

3 Christian, do you wrestle those who taunt and claim,
"Why keep fast and vigil? Prayer is said in vain!"
Christian, answer boldly: "While I breathe I pray!"
Peace shall follow battle, night shall end in day.

Words: attr. Andrew of Crete, c. 660-732; tr. John M. Neale, 1862; rev. Bert Polman, 1985,
© 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

From all the saints on earth or those at rest,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest: **Alleluia!**
You are their rock, their fortress, and their might;
in the darkness drear, you are their one true light. **Alleluia!**
May we, with all the apostles and martyrs bold,
join in the glorious, triumphant song of old: **Alleluia!**
O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We on earth and those at rest are one in your design. **Alleluia!**
When human strife is fierce, the warfare long,
may we learn from the saints whose faith was strong. **Alleluia!**
But soon there breaks a yet more glorious day
when all the saints in unity can pray: **Alleluia!**
From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
come peoples, tribes, and nations—a countless host,
singing to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: **Alleluia!**

Inspired by the hymn text "For All the Saints" by William W. How (1864) (*Psalter Hymnal* 505)

Our Hands and Hearts We Offer

1 We stand in the grand arena of God the Holy One.
Lord, help this academy demonstrate the wisdom of your Son.
Renew our minds, O Spirit, transform our deep desires.
Flood our work with light, recreate our sight,
so we may serve as stewards of your world.

Refrain:

Lord, to you our hands and hearts we offer;
keep us faithful to your call, we pray.
In our weakness make us strong to serve you, all our best for you.
Lord, to you our hands and hearts we offer;
keep us faithful to your call, we pray.
Guide in us the work that brings your kingdom, as we rest in you.

2 We marvel at your creation, the love that it conveys.
Earth, skies, and the seas sing out to the shining glory of your ways!
Give us the ears to hear it: creation's song of praise.
Lead us to our part, give our voices heart.
This is your world: let its music fill our souls! *Refrain*

3 Lord Jesus, you boldly taught us to dwell in unity.
You call us as friends in faith, made into a new community.
To you we belong forever, our hope in life and death.
Set us truly free from our enmity;
Lord, let your love work in us for all to see! *Refrain*

Words: David Fuentes, Lee Hardy, Bert Polman © 2009

Alleluia

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia;
we join in song to praise the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia;
we sing new songs to praise the Lord.

1 John saw the angels and the saints in glory;
he heard the song they sing to praise the Lamb.
Thousands are praying, millions are singing;
aloud they raise their voice to praise the Lamb. *Refrain*

2 They sing together a new song of heaven
to praise the Lamb who gave his life for us:
power and glory, wisdom and honor
be to the Lamb who gave his life for us. *Refrain*

3 Then all the creatures of the earth and heaven
repeat the chorus, praising God in song:
blessing and honor, glory and power
be to the Lord forevermore. Amen! *Refrain*

Words: Revelation 5:11-14; Eng. vers. Bert Polman, 1986, © 1987 Faith Alive Christian Resources

Lord God, we thank you for creating the universe,
for making us in your image as the crown of your creation,
and for sending us your son Jesus to reveal yourself to us.
Thank you, Christ, that you are before us, behind us.

We thank you for giving us a world vast in resources,
for enabling us to explore your world and its cultures,
and for prodding us to reflect to you all the glory of your creation.
Thank you, Christ, that you are beneath us, and above us.

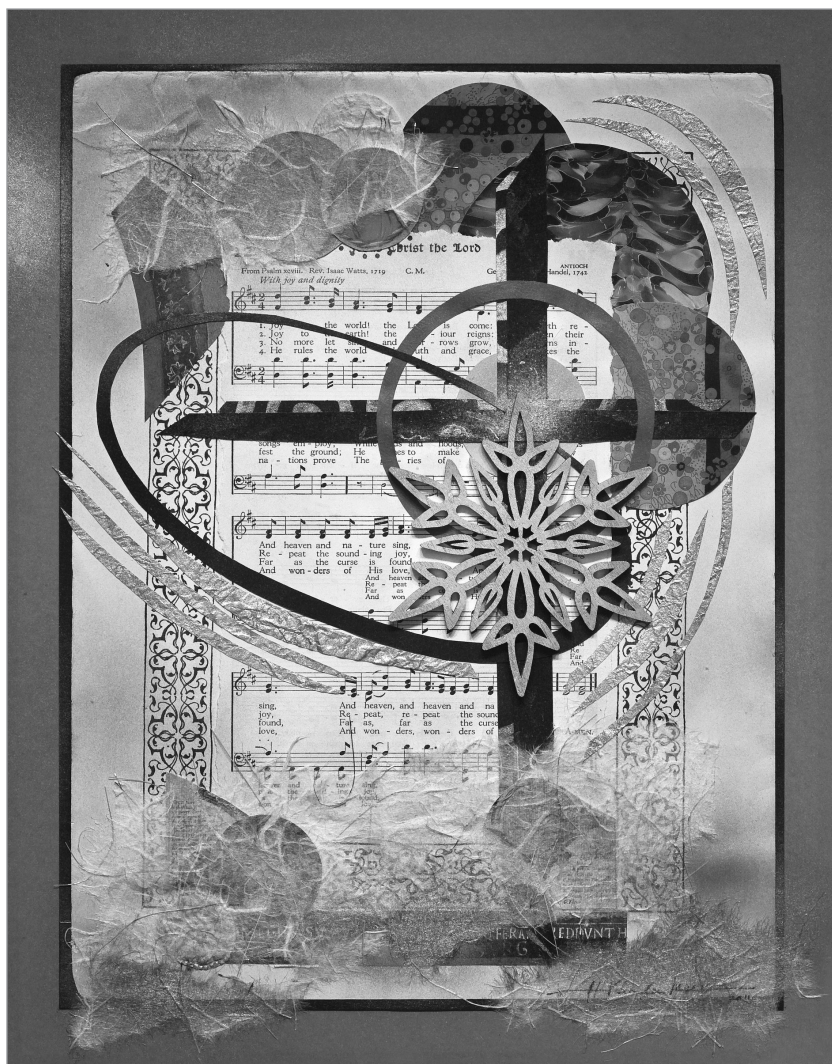
Lord God, we thank you for your mighty power that works salvation:
you saved your people from the corrupting ways of sin,
and brought us new life through your son Jesus, the Messiah.
Thank you, Christ, that you are on our right, and on our left.

We thank you that you've called us to be servant-leaders in your world,
to be your agents of reconciliation, comfort, and healing,
and to live your gospel in our work, play, and worship.
Thank you, Christ, that you are with us as we rest, and when we rise.

Lord, God, we thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit,
that enable us to love each other, to act justly and love mercy,
and to live with joy, kindness, and gentle patience, for your glory.
Thank you, Christ, that you are in our hearts, and in our minds.

We thank you for giving us a vision for a renewed heaven and earth,
where tears of pain and terrors of death are no more,
and in which the redeemed of the Lord and all creation praise you forever.
Thank you, Christ, that you are in us, and ever with us. Amen.

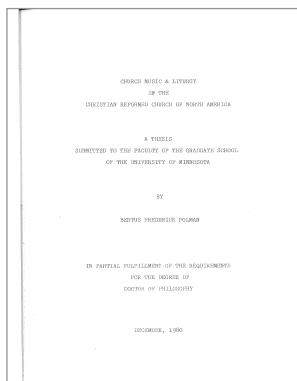
Inspired by St. Patrick (5th c.)



Psalm 98, Harriet VanderMeer

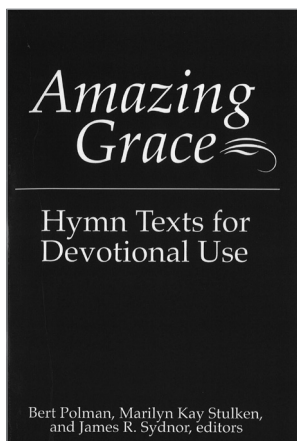
With gratitude for Bert's contribution among us...

The following publications are a sampling of some of Bert Polman's gifts to the Church:



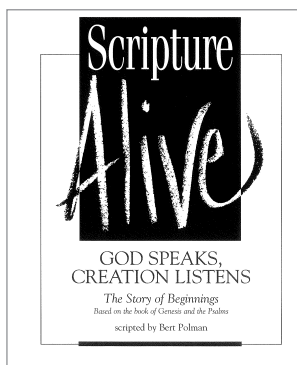
Church Music & Liturgy in the Christian Reformed Church of North America, 1980

Bert Polman's dissertation remains the most comprehensive history of worship in the Christian Reformed Church in North America. He wrote of its Dutch roots, American planting, ecumenical flowering, and the continuing dynamics of tradition and renewal.



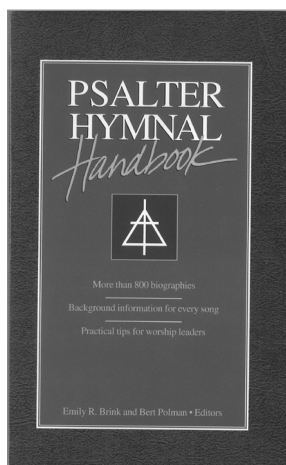
Amazing Grace: Hymn Texts for Devotional Use, 1994

Bert Polman was one of three editors who compiled this “home hymnal” of about 300 texts. This volume was gathered because “hymns can be comprehended in greater depth when the texts are read before they are sung” (Preface, vii).



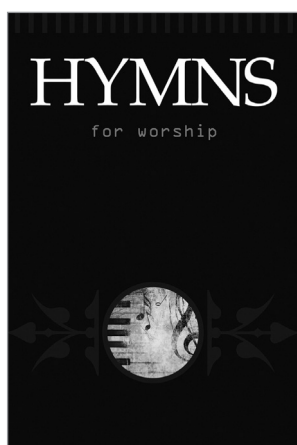
Scripture Alive: God Speaks, Creation Listens, 1997–2000

Bert Polman wrote many creative dramatic presentations of Scripture, interspersed with hymns, that are still published ecumenically.



Psalter Hymnal Handbook, 1998

Bert Polman was the main author for this handbook to the *Psalter Hymnal* of the Christian Reformed Church in North America. He worked every summer and countless evenings and weekends for ten years, a complete labor of love (with no financial compensation), to prepare information on every author, composer, and arranger. He also included music performance suggestions and ideas for use in worship. His research is now coming to new life online for the songs that are also included in *Lift Up Your Hearts*, the 2013 hymnal of both the Christian Reformed Church in North America and the Reformed Church in America.



Hymns for Worship, 2010

Bert Polman's collection of psalms and hymns in chronological order, with his brief teaching notes on each, has been used in many history and culture courses in North America.

The Banner

- May 30, 1969, vol. 104, "Music for Our Library"
- December 18, 1970, vol. 105, "How Shall We Sing the Lord's Songs?"
- April 16, 1971, vol. 106, "Jesus Christ Superstar"
- February 23, 1973, vol. 108, "Liturgy and Tradition in the CRC"
- March 2, 1973, vol. 108, "Church Music in Transition or by Transistor?"
- March 9, 1973, vol. 108, "Rite and Right in Holy Communion"
- March 16, 1973, vol. 108, "Where the Action Is"
- February 1, 1982, vol. 117, "Not Surprised at Lack of Intimacy"
- April 5, 1982, vol. 117, "Psalter Hymnal Revised. Shh! Hymnologists at Work!"
- October 31, 1983, vol. 118, "All Nations (male) Heritage?"
- October 8, 1984, vol. 119, "Sing a New Song"
- April 27, 1992, vol. 127, "Does God Enjoy My Music Too?"

Calvin Theological Journal

- April 2001, vol. 36, "The Role of Lament in American Musical Life: Concerto in Three Movements"

Christian Educators Journal

- April 2001, vol. 40, "Singing: A Communal and Humane Act"

Christian Home and School

- December 1973, vol. 52, "Music and the High School Curriculum"

The Hymn

- January 1991, vol. 42.1.44, "Hymn Interpretation: Lift High the Cross"
- April 1991, vol. 42.2.37, "Hymn Interpretation: Hope of the World"
- April 1991, vol. 42.2.24, "Teaching Hymnology at the College Level"

July 1991, vol. 42.3.43, “Hymn Interpretation: The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended”

October 1991, vol. 42.4.39, “Hymn Interpretation: Tell Out, My Soul”

January 1992, vol. 43.1.29, “Ye Servants of God: Hymn Festival to Celebrate the Faith and Ministry of Select New Testament Disciples of Christ”

January 1992, vol. 43.1.49, “Hymn Interpretation: What Wondrous Love is This”

April 1992, vol. 43.2.49, “Hymn Interpretation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen”

July 1992, vol. 43.3.39, “Hymn Interpretation: At the Name of Jesus”

October 1992, vol. 43.4.39, “Hymn Interpretation: Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive”

April 1994, vol. 45.2.27, “Let Justice Roll: A Hymn Festival”

Insight

July/August 1974, vol. 55, “I Dreamed of Saint Donny in my Training Bra”

July/August 1974, vol. 55, “What Does a Music Critic Say?”

September 1974, vol. 55, “Sound Advice”

October 1974, vol. 55, “The Real Taste of Pizza Music”

December 1974, vol. 55, “Sound Advice: Cat Steven’s Journey to Advent”

January 1975, vol. 56, “Popular Hymns—By the Score”

March 1975, vol. 56, “Sound Advice”

April 1975, vol. 56, “Sound Advice”

May/June 1975, vol. 56, “Sound Advice”

July/August 1975, vol. 56, “Sound Advice”

September 1975, vol. 56, “Relating to Music”

October 1975, vol. 56, “Sound Advice”

November 1975, vol. 56, “Jazz from the Ivories”

Winter 1975, vol. 56, “Music for the Sabbath”

January 1976, vol. 57, “Songs of the Asphalt War Path”

February 1976, vol. 57, "A Musical Celebration"

March 1976, vol. 57, "The Blues: Loving and Leaving"

April 1976, vol. 57, "Olivia Newton-John: Another Barbie Doll Voice"

May/June 1976, vol. 57, "Sing for Joy!"

July/August 1976, vol. 57, "Dylan's Desire"

Origins

November 1, 1989, vol. 7, "The Psalter Hymnal: from Its Dutch Roots to the 1987 Edition"

November 1, 1998, vol. 16, "The Hymn Question in the Christian Reformed Church"

Reformed Journal

January 1973, vol. 23, "Liturgy and Proclamation Renewed"

Reformed Worship

Winter 1986, vol. 2, "Singing Scripture: A Healthy Revival"

Spring 1987, vol. 3, "Festive Service for Ascension Day"

Spring 1987, vol. 3, "Hymn of the Month"

Spring 1987, vol. 3, "Pentecost Hymn Festival"

Fall 1988, vol. 9, "A Wesley Hymn Festival"

Summer 1989, vol. 12, "A Hymn-festival Service"

Winter 1989, vol. 14, "All in the Family"

Spring 1990, vol. 15, "Summer Festival of Praise"

Winter 1990, vol. 18, "The Passion of Our Lord"

Summer 1991, vol. 20, "The Praise and Worship Hit Parade: A Brief Analysis of Some of the Most-Sung Choruses of 1990"

Winter 1991, vol. 22, "From Doubt to Faith: A Scripture Drama Based on the Story of Thomas"

Fall 1992, vol. 25, “When In Our Music Christ Is Glorified”

Winter 1992, vol. 26, “Were Our Hearts Not Burning? A Dramatic Reading of the Emmaus Story”

Fall 1993, vol. 29, “Hymn of the Month”

Fall 1993, vol. 29, “Singing the Christmas Story: A Service of Carols from Around the World”

Spring 1996, vol. 39, “Songs for the Seasons: Introducing Graham Kendrick”

Winter 1997, vol. 46, “Songs for the Season”

Spring 1998, vol. 47, “Welcome, New Companion”

Fall 1998, vol. 49, “Songs for the Season”

Summer 2000, vol. 56, “Songs for the Seasons: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs for Weddings”

Spring 2004, vol. 71, “Songs for Ascension, Pentecost, and Professing Our Faith”

Winter 2005, vol. 78, “All I Ever Really needed to Know About Worship I Learned from Reformed Worship”

Summer 2006, vol. 80, “Celebrating Emily: A Tribute”

Fall 2006, vol. 81, “What’s in a Name?”

Fall 2009, vol. 93, “...And Peace on Earth”

Summer 2010, vol. 96, “Meet Hymns for Worship: A Musical Tour Through the Church’s History”

Fall 2012, vol. 105, “Evangelists and Canticles: A Festival of Lessons and Carols”



Since 2005 Bert Polman has served as professor of music and chair of the music department at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as well as a Senior Research Fellow with the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship. Before coming to Calvin, he taught at Ontario Bible College in Toronto (1977-1985) and at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario (1985-2004). He was a graduate of Dordt College (B.A., 1968) and the University of Minnesota (M.A., 1969, Ph.D., 1981),

and also studied at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto. In addition to his teaching and publications, he served as Research Director for the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada and as editor of the Hymn Society's monograph on Canadian Native hymnody. He also served on the *Psalter Hymnal* Revision Committee, on the editorial council of the journal *Reformed Worship*, as a member and chair of the Christian Reformed denominational Worship Committee, and had a major role in the large-scale Worship Conferences (COLAM) of the Christian Reformed Church. He indexed several thousand musical settings of the Song of Mary (Luke 1) and also drafted primary research for a commentary on select contemporary Christian Praise & Worship songs. He served a number of times as a primary lecturer at the Milk & Honey Festival held annually in June at Redeemer University College and led two major faculty research seminars during his tenure at Calvin College. In his role as music department chair, he led the department's reaccreditation process and the department's move into the renovated Covenant Fine Arts Center.